

**HIGH PEAK COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

**ANALYSIS OF
A CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY
OF
MEMBERS OF THE HIGH PEAK
CITIZENS PANEL**

SEPTEMBER 2002

HIGH PEAK CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the summer of 2001 a Crime and Safety Survey, which is based on questions from the British Crime Survey was circulated to the High Peak Citizens Panel. A total of 740 forms were returned 402 from females and 338 from males.

The survey looks at the extent, trends and concerns about crime, which gives us a picture of the High Peak district. Where possible some analysis has been carried out to give comparisons between the district of High Peak and the county of Derbyshire.

- 10.6% of respondents from High Peak thought that crime had risen 'a lot' compared to 12.8% from the Derbyshire county panellists.
- The elderly (65+) expressed the greatest worry of crime.
- 31.8% of women said that they were 'very' worried about crime in High Peak compared to 38.2% countywide.
- 53.2% of respondents said that they were worried about having their car stolen, 52.8% are worried about domestic burglary and 51.8% are worried about theft from a car.
- Over 30% of women said that they were worried about being raped, mugged or attacked by a stranger compared to 40% from the county panellists.
- 25.4% of respondents said that they felt 'a bit' or 'very' unsafe whilst walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark compared to 33.4% countywide.
- 16.9% of respondents said that they 'never walk alone' in their neighbourhood after dark compared to 22.6% countywide.
- 42% of respondents said that they had contacted the police in the last 12 months compared to 35.7% countywide.
- Respondents are most likely to report vandalism of their property, being insulted or pestered in the street or theft from a car.
- The survey showed that 54.3% of all incidents were reported to the police.
- Reasons for not reporting crimes were that they 'didn't think that the incident was important/serious enough' and that 'there was no chance of catching the criminal'.
- Most respondents thought that more police patrols would make neighbourhoods safe places to live.
- Figures suggest that respondents were satisfied with the way in which the police deal with most things in High Peak.

NATIONAL PICTURE

The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures crimes against adults (16 and over) living in private households in England and Wales. The Home Office carries out the survey and has conducted it nine times since 1982. The latest statistics cover interviews in 2001/02 and therefore report on a range of recall periods centred on March 2001.

Many crimes that are committed are neither reported to the police nor recorded by them, and therefore do not feature in the recorded crime statistics. Furthermore, the proportion of crime committed that are reported and recorded can vary over time. For these reasons, recorded crime by itself can be unreliable as a measure of crime. The BCS provides an alternative measure. It collects from a sample of the public information about crimes committed against them whether or not they are reported to the police. From this data estimates of the numbers of crimes committed against individuals can be made as well as key features of specific crimes such as location, age of victims and their relationship with offenders and, for thefts and burglaries, information about method of entry and items stolen.

The BCS does not cover all types of crime. It does not measure crimes against children, victimless crimes or crimes against businesses. It does not interview people living in an institutional setting or anyone described as living in anything other than a standard household.

For the crime types it covers, the BCS can provide a better reflection of the true extent of crime because it includes crimes that are not reported to the police. The BCS count also gives a better indication of trends in crime over time because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, and in police recording practices. Significant changes in recording crime by the police have led to an increase in the number of recorded crime. Now violent crime appears to be rising according to police statistics, but when recording changes are taken into account this increase appears to be much smaller, and for those violent crimes reported to the BCS the trend over the past half decade has been down, and significantly so.

- Overall, crime appears to have been stable over the last year, following a period of consistent decline.
- The 2001/02 BCS estimated that there were just over 13 million crimes against adults living in private households based on interviews taking place in 2001/02.
- Between 1999 and 2001/02, all BCS crime fell by 14 per cent, which is a statistically significant reduction. This figure includes statistically significant falls in domestic burglary (down 23%), all vehicle-related theft (down 14%), other household theft (down 21%) and common assaults (down 28%).
- Since 1995, the BCS has reported a fall in crime at each survey. There was a 22 per cent fall in the crime measured by the BCS over the last five years from 1997 to 2001/2002.
- The BCS estimate of the risk of being a victim of crime has been calculated for interviews taking place in the separate quarters of 2001/2002. The risk of being a victim of crime shows little fluctuation, suggesting that crime risks have stayed fairly stable over the last year at around 28 per cent overall.

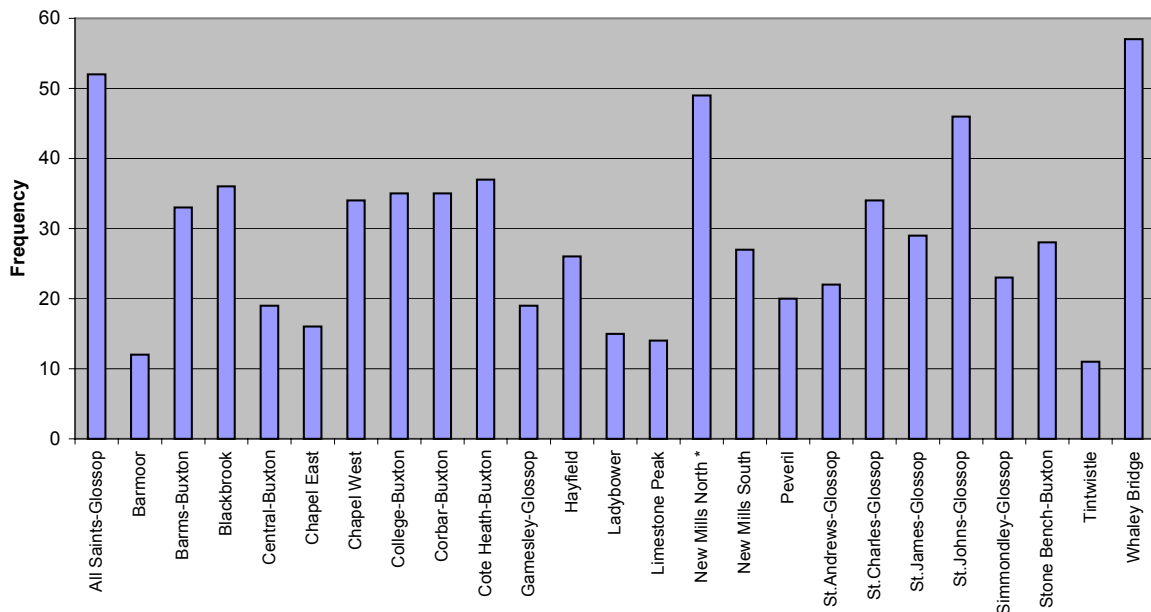
Crime in England and Wales 2001/2002 Patterns of Crime Group, RDS, Home Office

THE LOCAL PICTURE

The survey covered concern about crime in a number of ways. These included beliefs about trends in crime, risk of victimisation and more emotional issues such as worry about specific offences and feeling unsafe at night. An analysis of the results of this survey follows.

Figure 1 shows the number of respondents surveyed from each ward.

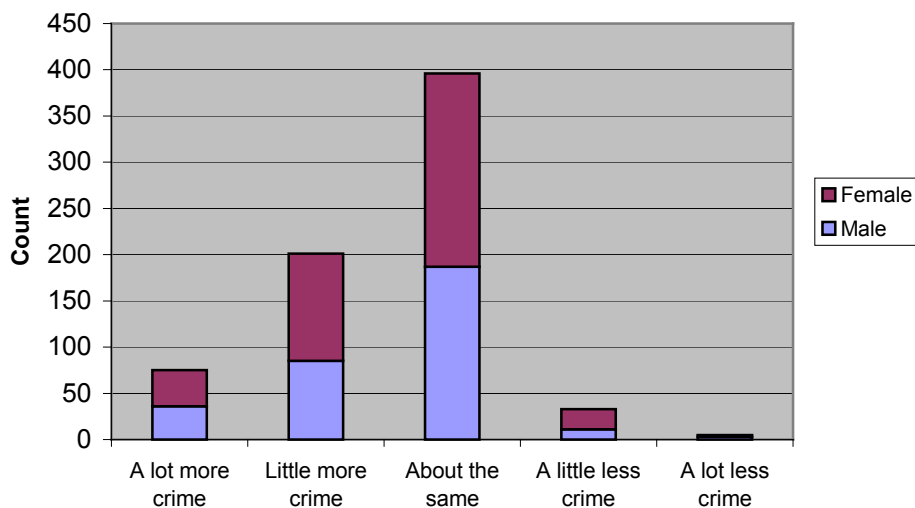
Figure 1: Wards Surveyed



CRIME RATES

Respondents were asked how much they thought the crime rate had changed since two years ago. People tended to be wary about crime trends with just under a half of respondents saying that they believed that crime had increased.

Figure 2: Beliefs about the change in the crime rate



Just over half (55.9%, n=402) believed that the crime rate had 'remained about the same', over a quarter (28.1%, n=202) thought that there was 'a little more' crime and only 10.6%, n=76 thought there was 'a lot more' crime.

CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

The survey asked respondents how much they worried about crime. Levels of worry are higher among those living in high crime areas, those who have been recent victims of crime, those who consider it likely they will be victimised and those who are socially or economically vulnerable.

Figures 3 and 4 show the levels of worry about 'any crime' by age group and by sex.

Figure 3: Are you very worried about any crime?

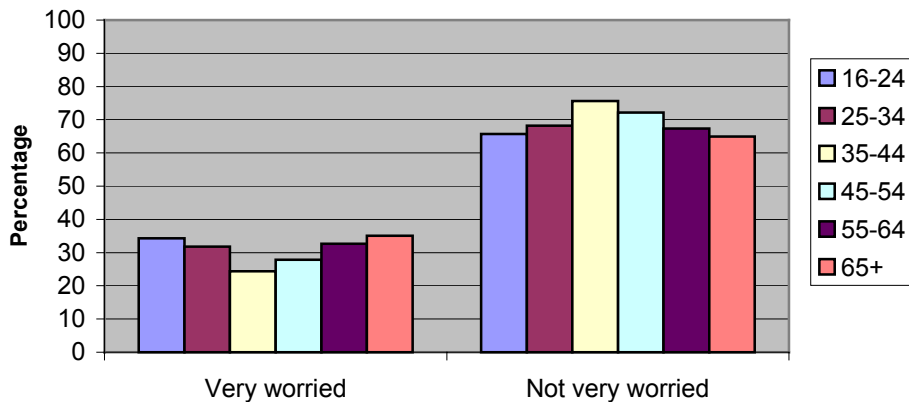
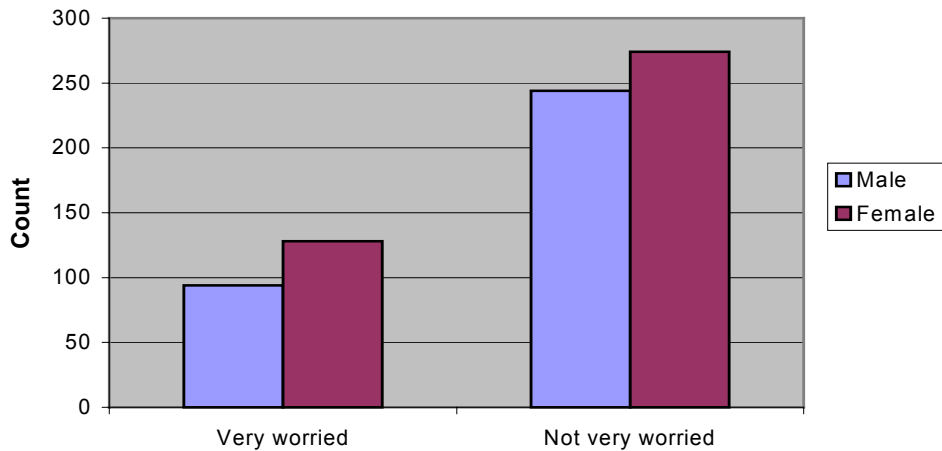


Figure 4: Are you 'very' worried about any crime in High Peak



In total 30% of respondents said they were 'very worried' about crime in the High Peak area.

Figure 3 shows that elderly people (65+) expressed the greatest worry of crime, with 35.1% of respondents in that age group saying that they were 'very worried' about crime in their area. 34.4% of young people (16-24 year olds) also said that they were 'very worried' about crime.

Figure 4 shows that more women are 'very worried' about crime than men, with 31.8% of women saying that they are 'very worried' about crime in the High Peak area.

WORRY ABOUT VICTIMISATION

Concern about crime is linked to both people’s beliefs about their chances of being victimised and what they feel about the consequences of victimisation.

Respondents were then asked how worried they are about the following crimes.

- ◆ Having their home broken into and having things stolen
- ◆ Being mugged or robbed
- ◆ Having their car stolen
- ◆ Having things stolen from their car
- ◆ Road accident
- ◆ Being raped
- ◆ Being the victim of domestic violence
- ◆ Being attacked by a stranger
- ◆ Being insulted or pestered by a stranger
- ◆ Being subject to a physical attack because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion

Respondents could say they were, ‘very worried’, ‘fairly worried’, ‘not very worried’, ‘not very worried at all’ or the question was ‘not applicable’. The percentages shown exclude those respondents who answered ‘not applicable’ to any question.

Figure 5 shows the percentage of respondents (excluding those answering ‘not applicable’) who were either ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ worried about specific crimes in 2000. The picture differs somewhat depending on whether ‘very’ worried or both ‘very’ and ‘fairly’ worried are considered.

Figure 5: Worry about crime

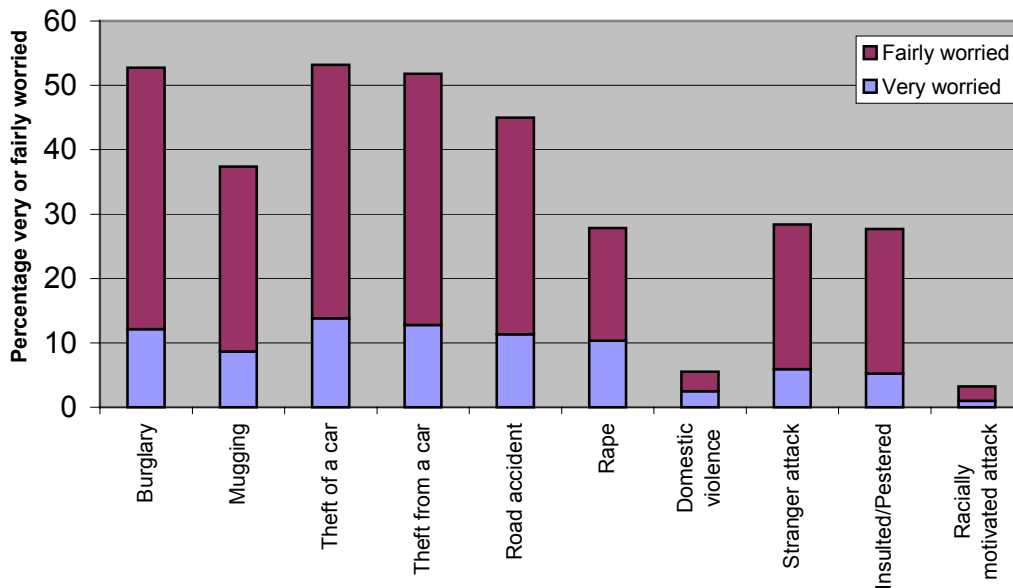
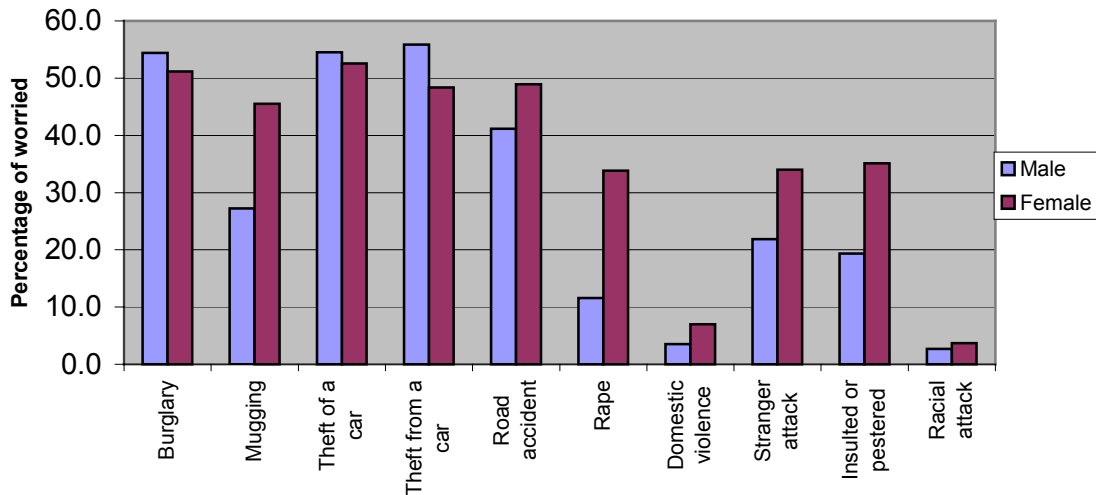


Figure 6 (overleaf) shows the percentage of respondents split by gender who were ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ worried about specific crimes.

Figure 6: Worry about crime, by gender



It is evident that fear of having your car stolen (53.2%), burglary (52.8%) and theft from a car (51.8%) are the most worrying, with road accidents (45%) and mugging (37.4%) also being a concern.

Women are more worried than men about being involved in a road accident and are far more worried about violent crime. Over 30% of women said that they were worried about being raped, mugged or attacked by a stranger. Men however seem more concerned about vehicle crime and burglary than other crimes.

CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY

As well as beliefs about trends in crime and personal risks of victimisation, concern about crime also encompasses more emotional responses such as personal safety. Respondents were then asked how safe they feel when (a) walking alone in their area after dark and (b) alone in their home at night.

Figure 7: Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighbourhood at night

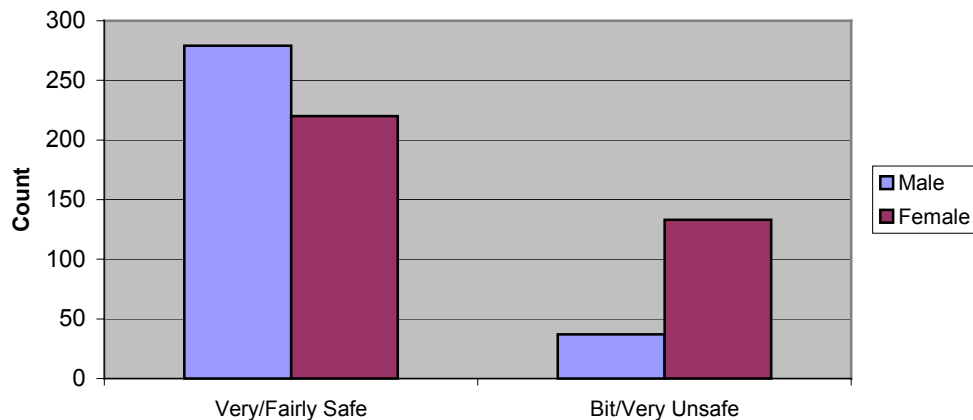
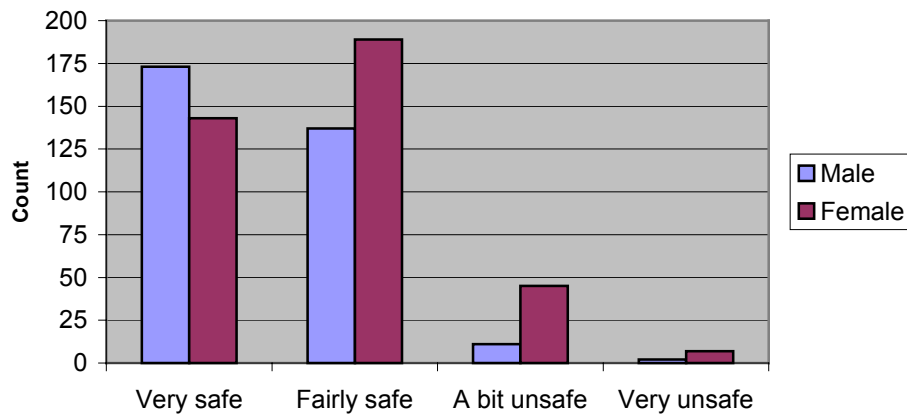


Figure 8: How safe do you feel when alone at night



In 2001, nearly a half of respondents (49.4%, n=355) said that they walk alone in their neighbourhood after dark at least once a week. 74.6%, n=499 of respondents said that they felt 'very or fairly safe' walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, compared to 25.4%, n=170 who felt 'a bit or very unsafe'. Overall, only 16.9%, n=121 of respondents said they never walked alone in their local area after dark and a further 20.8%, n=149 said they went out less than once a month.

People were far less likely to feel unsafe alone in their own home, with only 1.3% saying they felt 'very unsafe' and 7.8% 'a bit unsafe'.

Women were by far the most likely to say that they felt or would feel unsafe either walking alone or being alone at home at night.

THE IMPACT OF CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

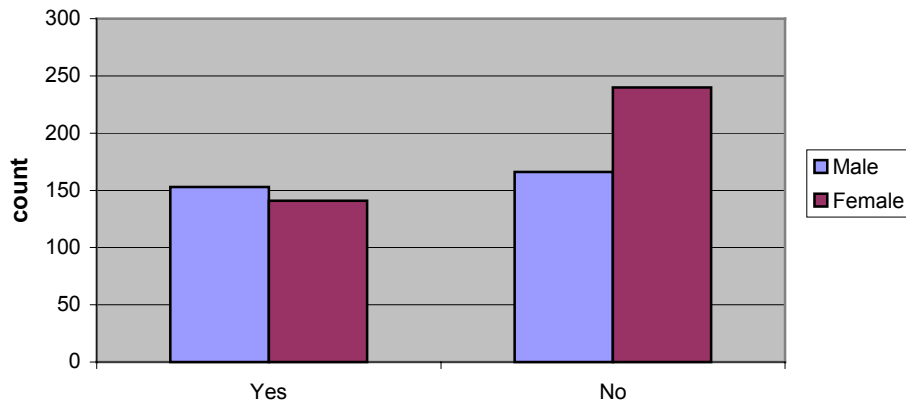
Worry about crime can be regarded as problematic if it has a detrimental impact on people's quality of life. However, not all those who express concern will necessarily be in a constant state of alarm about the prospect of victimisation. Furthermore, it is arguable that a certain level of concern or wariness is actually beneficial in encouraging people to take measures to reduce their risk of victimisation (eg. installing household security devices or avoiding risky places).

EXTENT OF CRIME

LEVELS OF REPORTING

The High Peak Crime and Safety Survey asked respondents if they had contacted the police either by telephone, or in the street, or by calling at a police station in the last 12 months.

Figure 9: Have you contacted the police in the last 12 months



Nearly one half of respondents (42.0%, n=294) said that they had contacted the police in the last 12 months.

REASONS FOR REPORTING

Those who said yes were then asked for what reasons did they contact the police.

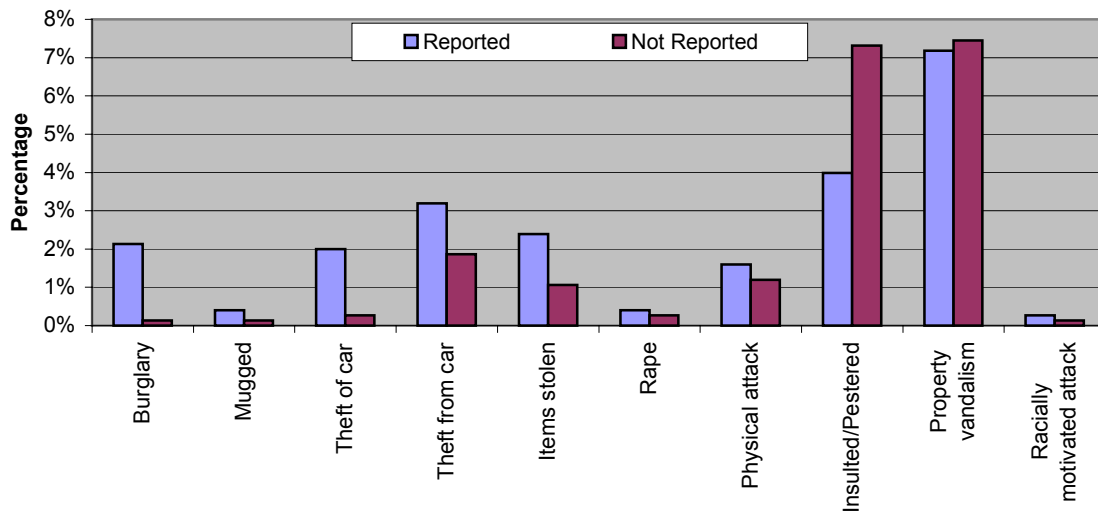
- 11.8% (n=89) said to 'report a crime of which someone in their household was the victim'.
- 10.8% (n=81) said 'to report any other suspicious circumstances or persons'.
- 8.0% (n=60) said 'to report any type of disturbances, noise or nuisance'.
- 7.0% (n=53) said 'to report any other type of problem or difficulty'.
- 5.1% (n=38) said 'to give the police any other sort of information'.
- 4.9% (n=37) said 'to report a traffic accident or medical emergency'.
- 4.9% (n=37) said 'to ask for any other sort of advice or information'.
- 4.4% (n=33) said 'to report a crime of which someone else not in their household was a victim'.

EXTENT OF CRIME AND REPORTING

Respondents were then asked whether any of the following crimes had happened to them in the last 12 months, whether or not they had reported them to the police and how many times they had occurred. Figure 10 shows the percentage of respondents who have experienced the following types of crime, which were then reported or not reported to the police.

- ◆ Having their home broken into and having things stolen
- ◆ Being mugged or robbed
- ◆ Having their car stolen
- ◆ Having things stolen from their car
- ◆ Had things stolen other than from your car and home
- ◆ Being raped
- ◆ Being physically attacked
- ◆ Being insulted or pestered by a stranger
- ◆ Had some of their property vandalised
- ◆ Being subject to a physical attack because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion

Figure 10: Percentage of offences reported and not reported to the police



Reporting varies considerably by type of offence. It appears that respondents are most likely to report:

Vandalism of their property (7.0%, n=54)

Being insulted or pestered whilst in a public place (4.0%, n=30)

Having things stolen from their car (3.0%, n=24)

However, respondents who have had their property vandalised (7.0%, n=56) or have been insulted or pestered whilst in the street or any other public place (7.0%, n=55) are most likely not to report the offence to the police. Other than these two offences, the figures suggest that more offences are reported to the police than not.

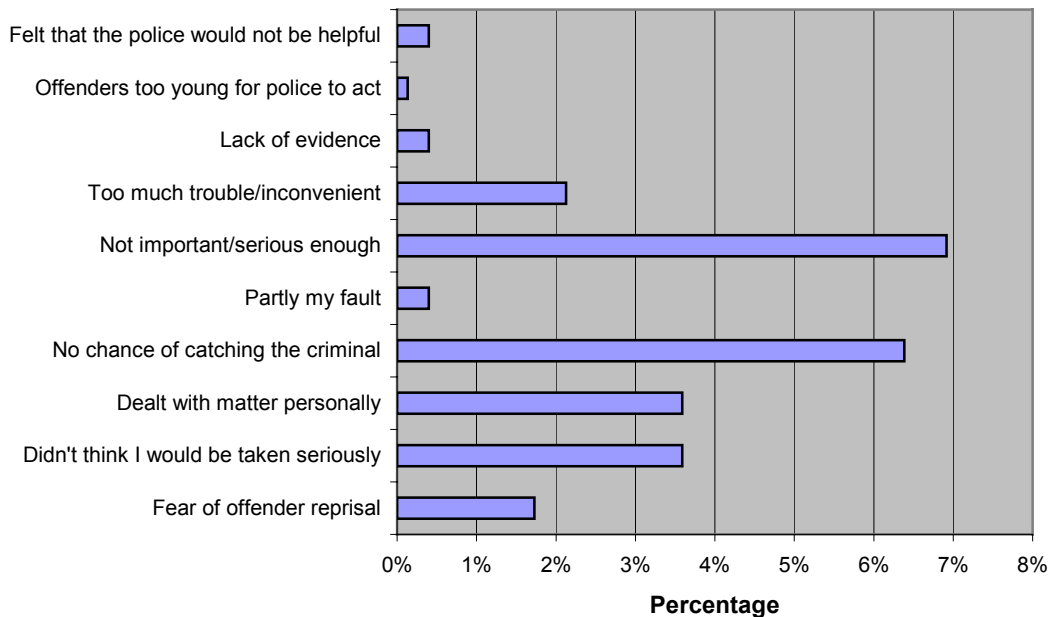
Results from the High Peak Crime and Safety Survey 2001 indicate that 54.3% of incidents were reported to the police as shown in Table 1

Table 1.

OFFENCE	REPORTED TO POLICE	NOT REPORTED	TOTAL CRIMES	% REPORTED CRIME
Burglary	16	1	17	94.1%
Mugged/robbed	3	1	4	75.0%
Theft of car	15	2	17	88.2%
Theft from car	24	14	38	63.2%
Items stolen	18	8	26	69.2%
Rape	3	2	5	60.0%
Physical attack	12	9	21	57.1%
Insulted/pestered	30	55	85	35.3%
Property vandalism	54	56	110	49.1%
Racially motivated attack	2	1	3	66.6%
TOTAL	177	149	326	54.3%

The High Peak Crime and Safety Survey then asked respondents their reasons for not reporting these crimes to the police shown in Figure 9.

Figure 11: Reasons for not reporting the crime(s) to police



Reasons respondents were most likely not to have reported crime were, that they felt that the incident was 'not important/serious enough' (7.0%, n=52) or there was 'no chance of catching the criminal' (6.0%, n=48).

REPEAT VICTIMISATION

This is the recurrence of the same crime against those who have been victimised once in the year.

When asked how many times an offence had happened to them, respondents were most likely to say once, regardless of whether they had reported it to the police or not.

Those respondents who were victims of crime more than once in the year and reported it to the police were most likely to have been insulted or pestered whilst in the street (45%) or had their property vandalised (37.8%) more than once. The same crimes are also most common for those respondents who were repeat victims of crime and did not report it. 60.5% of respondents said that they had been insulted or pestered whilst in the street or any other public place and 40.5% of respondents said that they had been repeat victims of having their property vandalised but did not bother to report it to the police.

LOCATION OF OFFENCE

Respondents were asked where they had experienced crime.

Figure 12: Place where offence occurred

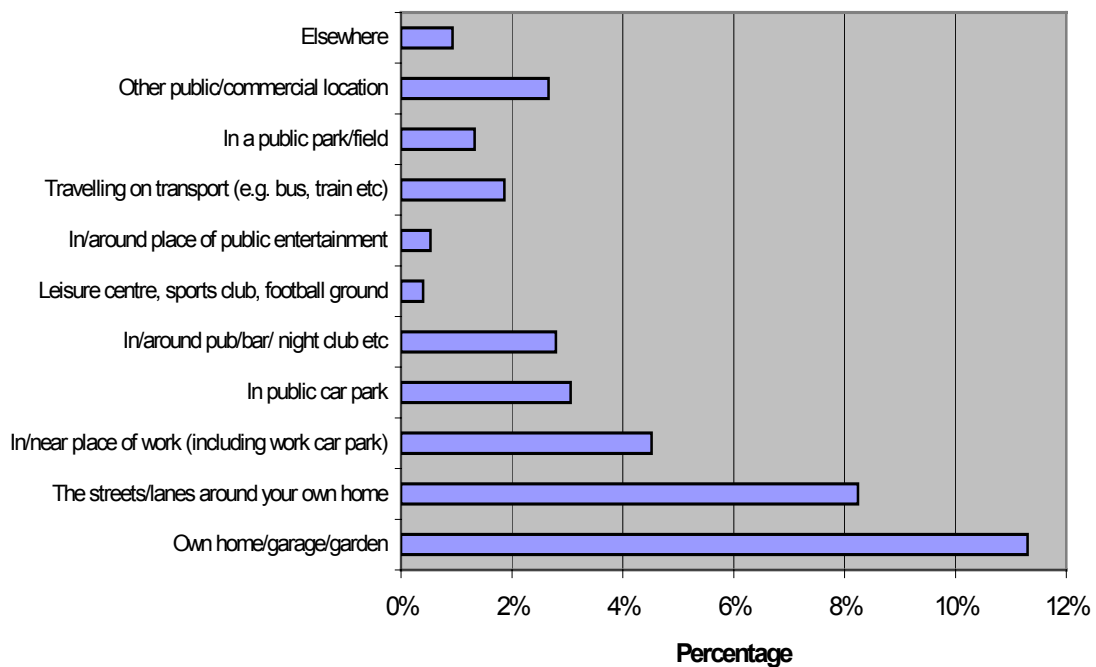


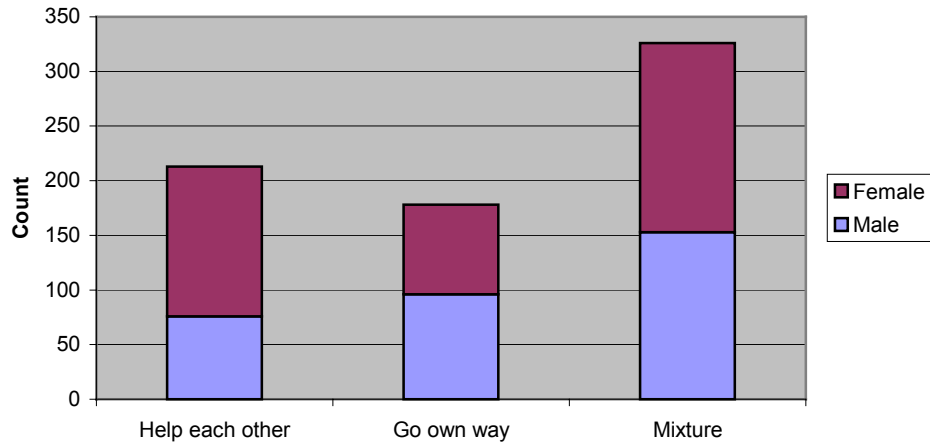
Figure 12 shows where the offence occurred.

These figures suggest that most crimes had occurred in the respondents 'own home/garage/garden' (11.3%, n=85) and the 'streets/lanes around their own home' (8.2%, n=62).

NEIGHBOURHOOD

The High Peak Crime and Safety Survey asked respondents a number of questions about the neighbourhood in which they lived.

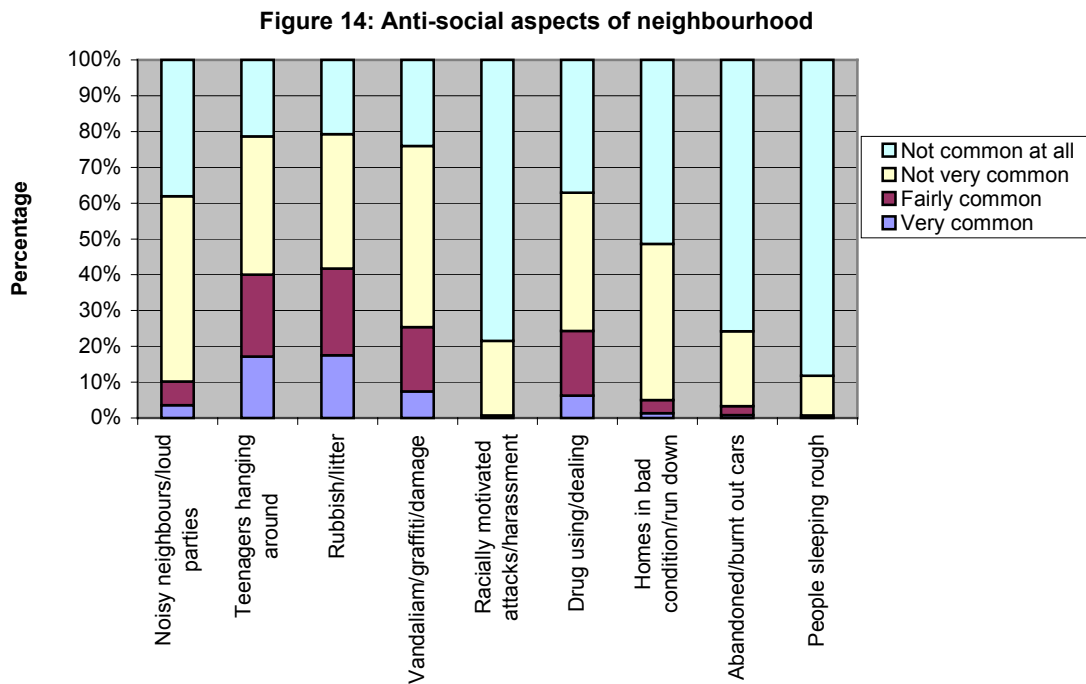
Figure 13: What sort of neighbourhood would you say you live in



When asked what kind of neighbourhood the respondents would say they lived in, nearly half (45.3%, n=329) said that they lived in a neighbourhood where there was a mixture of people doing things together and trying to help each other as well as mostly going their own way. Nearly a quarter (24.8%, n=180) felt that people mostly go their own way, whereas nearly a third (30.0%, n=218) felt that people do things together and try to help each other.

The remaining neighbourhood questions focused on how common the following anti-social aspects of their neighbourhood were:

- ◆ Noisy neighbours or loud parties
- ◆ Groups of teenagers hanging around on the street
- ◆ People sleeping on the streets or in other public places
- ◆ Rubbish or litter lying around
- ◆ Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property
- ◆ People being attacked or harassed because of their race or colour
- ◆ People using or dealing drugs
- ◆ Homes in bad condition/run down
- ◆ Abandoned or burnt out cars

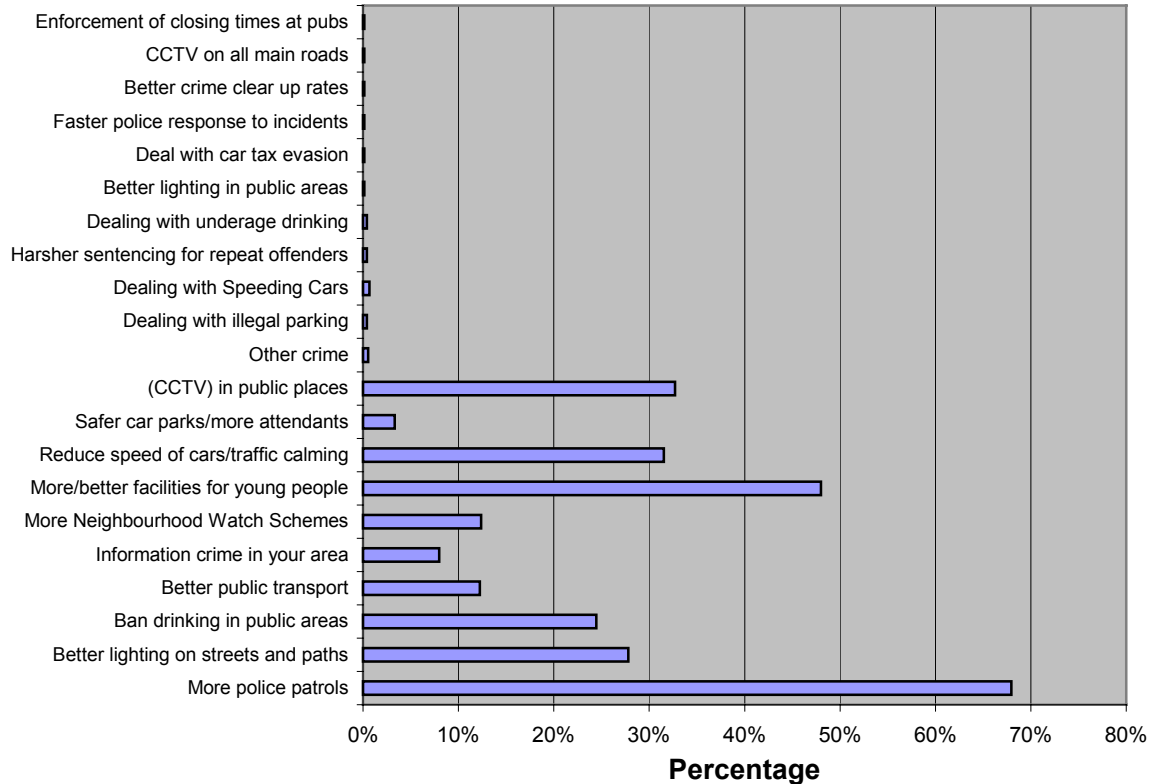


Respondents tended to believe that most anti-social aspects of neighbourhoods are 'not very' or 'not at all common'. Those that respondents felt were 'fairly' or 'very common' were rubbish/litter (41.7%), teenagers hanging around (40.0%), and vandalism/graffiti and other deliberate damage to property (25.4%).

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The High Peak Crime and Safety Survey asked respondents what they thought would be most effective in making their neighbourhood a safer place to live.

Figure 15: Effective ways to make neighbourhood feel safer

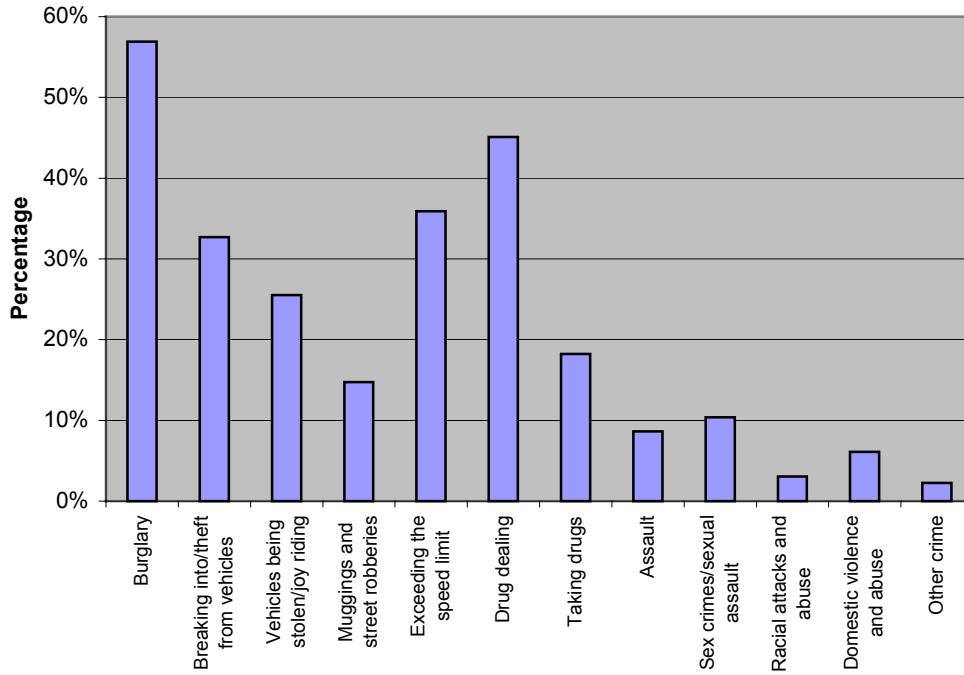


Perhaps not surprisingly, most respondents felt that 'more police patrols' would make neighbourhoods safer places to live (68%, n=511). They also felt that neighbourhoods would be safer if there were 'better facilities for young people' (48%, n=361), 'better lighting on street and paths' (33%, n=288), 'security cameras (CCTV) in public places' (28%, n=251) and 'better street cleaning, litter enforcement' (26%, n=232). Other methods suggested by the respondents were such things as 'more neighbourhood watch schemes' (18%, n=163) and 'more responsible attitude/behaviour by residents' (17%, n = 147).

Respondents were then asked if a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had ever been set up in the area, covering their address, just over a third (34.3%, n=246) said yes, 36.9%, n=265 said no, and just over one quarter (28.4, n = 204) said they did not know.

The Survey then asked respondents what they thought the police and other crime and disorder agencies should give priority to tackling in their neighbourhood.

Figure 16: Priorities for the police and other crime and disorder agencies

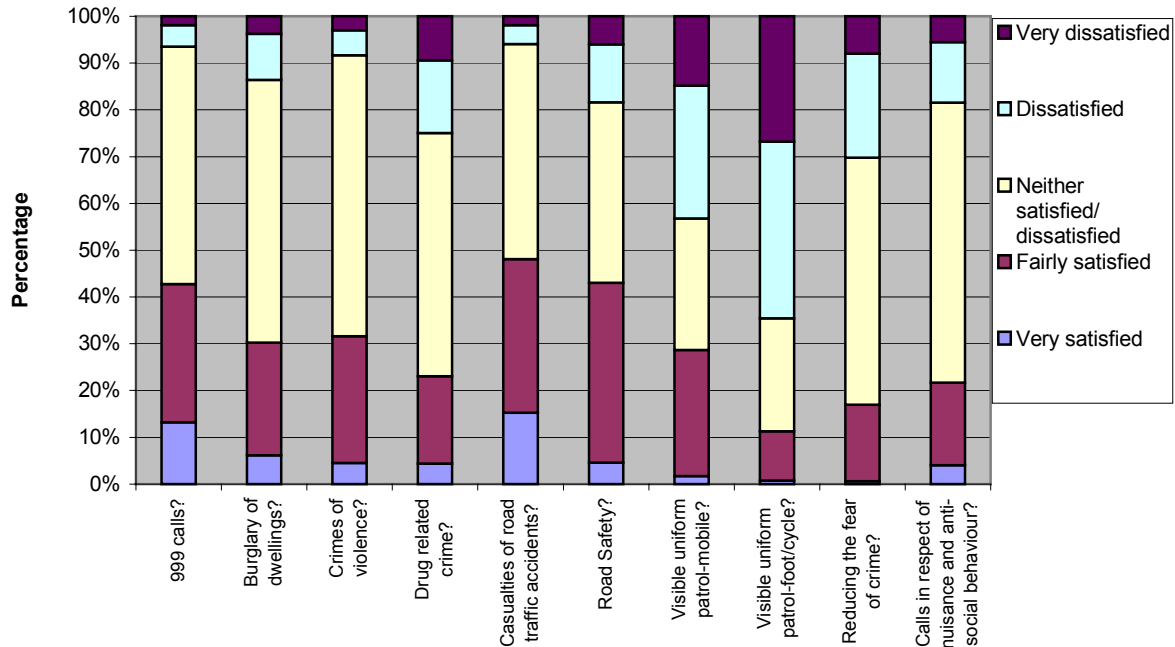


Respondents were most likely to feel that burglary should be the priority of the police and other crime and disorder agencies (56.9%, n=428). Other offences suggested were 'drug dealing' (45.1%, n=339), 'exceeding the speed limit' (35.9%, n=270) and 'breaking into/theft from vehicles' (32.7%, n=246).

SATISFACTION WITH THE POLICE

Respondents were asked questions regarding their satisfaction with how the police deal with certain issues in High Peak.

Figure 17: Satisfaction with the police



The figures suggest that the respondents are satisfied with the way in which the police deal with most things in High Peak. Areas where respondents were dissatisfied were the lack of 'visible uniform patrol-foot/cycle' (64.6%), the lack of 'visible uniform patrol-mobile' (43.2%) and 30.2% said that they were dissatisfied with the police in their attempts to reduce the reduction of 'fear of crime'.

The respondents were then asked how good a job overall they thought the police are doing in the High Peak area. Nearly a half (47.8%, n=329) thought that the police were doing a fair job, just over a third (34.8%, n=240) thought they were doing a good job, but only 3.8% (n=26) though they were doing an excellent job.